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Prognostic Significance of CEA Levels and Detection of CEA mRNA in Draining Venous Blood in Patients With Colorectal Cancer
Ioannis Kanellos, Emmanouil Zacharakis, Dimitrios Kanellos, Manousos-Georgios Pramateftakis, Theodoros Tsahalis, Efthimios Altsitsiadis, and Dimitrios Betsis 3
The aims of this study were to determine CEA levels and incidence of tumor cells using the RT-PCR technique in draining venous blood of patients with colorectal cancer and their significance as prognostic factors of the disease. Positive CEA mRNA appeared to be accurate enough as a predictor of hepatic metastases and local recurrence with accuracy over 80%. CEA level in mesenteric venous blood was a sensitive indicator in hepatic metastases as sensitivity was 95% and a specific indicator in predicting 5-year survival with specificity 84%.

Symmetrization Reduction Mammaplasty Combined With Sentinel Node Biopsy in Patients Operated for Contralateral Breast Cancer
Peter Schrenk, Soraya Wölfl, Sephan Bogner, Georg Huemer, and Wolfgang Wayand 9
Sentinel node biopsy performed in breast cancer patients scheduled for contralateral symmetrization reduction mammaplasty spares Sentinel node negative patients a complete axillary lymph node dissection when occult cancer is found in the reduction mammaplasty specimen.

Prognostic Factors for Patients With Node-Negative Gastric Cancer: Can Extended Lymph Node Dissection Have a Survival Benefit?
Sung-Soo Park, Joong-Min Park, Jong-Han Kim, Wan-Bae Kim, Juneyoung Lee, Seung-Joo Kim, Chong-Suk Kim, and Young-Jae Mok 16
Although many researchers have been studying the methods of sentinel node detection, actually there is no agreement on the extent of lymph node dissection for the node-negative gastric cancer so far. This study reports outcomes and prognosis for the patients with node-negative gastric cancer with special reference to the extent of lymph node dissection.

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Radical Reoperation for Invasive Cervical Cancer Found in Simple Hysterectomy
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Prognostic significance of intratumor OPRT activity was evaluated in resectable colorectal cancer patients. The study revealed that intratumor OPRT activity is a significant predictive factor for resectable colorectal cancer patients treated by oral 5-FU-based adjuvant chemotherapy.

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Lack of Activated Smad2 in Transforming Growth Factor-β Signaling is an Unfavorable Prognostic Factor in Patients With Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Minoru Fukuchi, Masanobu Nakajima, Tatsuya Miyazaki, Norihiro Masuda, Hidenobu Osawa, Ryokuhei Manda, Katsuhiko Tsukada, Hiroyuki Kato, and Hiroyuki Kuwano 51
Loss of activated Smad2 expression was correlated with lymph node metastasis, pathologic stage and poor prognosis in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). The lower level of activated Smad2 may affect the progression of esophageal SCC through the TGF-β-signaling pathway.

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Staging Patients With Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma by Same-Day Lymphoscintigraphy and Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy: A Single-Institutional Experience With Emphasis on Recurrence
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A single-institutional experience with sentinel lymph node biopsies in a consecutive series of 278 patients with 279 cutaneous malignant melanomas in clinical stage I is reported. All patients underwent dynamic lymphoscintigraphy followed on the same day by radioprobe guided surgery. Sentinel lymph nodes were removed in 274 cases, and regional lymph node recurrence was observed in four out of 195 cases in which removed sentinel lymph nodes were histologically negative.

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C. Gebert, A. Hillmann, A. Schwappach, Ch. Hoffmann, J. Hardes, J. Kleinheinz, and G. Gosheger 114
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